

(iii) re : *lathi charge at Hamsabhavi Dharwar District.*

SRI B. G. BANAKAR.—I call the attention of the Hon Chief Minister to the lathi charge made by the Police at Hamsabhavi, Dharwar District.

SRI D. DEVARAJ URS (Chief Minister).—On 26-1-1975 one Warambally (a Caste Hindu) and his two sons removed the tiles and also dismantled a shed belonging to one Mrs. Balawwa Aradhyamath aged about 34 years (Dhor by caste married to a Lingayath) working as an Assistant Teacher in the local Girls Primary School. She complained to the PSI Hamsabhavi and stated that she was a tenant of the said Warambally and paying a rent of Rs. 18 per month. Warambally had demanded a rent of Rs. 40/- stating that she should vacate the house otherwise. She also alleged that Warambally had called her 'Holeyá'. The P. S. I. called Warambally and advised him to follow the legal procedure to get the house vacated and not to trouble the woman. But Warambally said that the course adopted by him had been decided in the panchayat which had been convened about 2 days before the incident and that therefore he did not want the legal methods. As he misbehaved with the PSI, a notice under Section 92 (o) of the Karnataka Police Act for misbehaviour was issued to Warambally.

Later on the same day Mrs. Aradhyamath preferred a written complaint against Warambally for forcing her out of the house on grounds of caste. About 2-30 P.M. some 200-300 persons led by Channappa Walavaji Warambally and others gathered near the Police Station and shouted slogans against the PSI and when they were prevented from entering the Police Station, pelted stones

as a result of which one S. I., one H. C. and five P. Cs. were injured. When the situation was going out of control, lathi charge was ordered. As this also proved ineffective, the PSI fired one round from a 410 musket in the air. No one was injured. The crowd immediately withdrew and remained at a distance. Meanwhile, Shri Akki and Shri Karodi (Advocates) came there and offered to effect a compromise. The Police Inspector who also arrived at the scene persuaded the mob to disperse, promising to enquire into the whole affair.

In this connection, two cases have been registered (1) Cr. No. 27/75 under Section 447-421 IPC and Section 4 VIII of Untouchability Act at Hamsabhavi Police Station on a specific complaint by Balawwa Aradhyamath, against Shri Warambally and 2 others. A charge-sheet was filed in P. T. in C. C. No. 137/75. A case was also booked in Crime No. 3/75 under Section 147-148-332-504-506 IPC at Hamsabhavi Police Station against 31 persons who had thrown stones and attacked the Police Station etc. This was chargesheeted and is pending trial in CC. No. 138/75.

The District Magistrate, Dharwar, has appointed the Additional District Magistrate, Haveri, to conduct Magisterial Enquiry into the Police firing. The enquiry has already commenced on 13-2-1975 and the witnesses are being examined and statements are being recorded.

The Superintendent of Police, after personal enquiry, has transferred the PSI., Hamsabhavi, on 2-2-1975 and has instituted a departmental inquiry against him into the allegation of excesses narrated by the Members of Public against the PSI.

The Superintendent of Police visited Hamsabhavi the same day and held a meeting of citizens, including the MLA. The situation now is peaceful.

SRI B. G. BANAKAR :—Madam, I thank the Government and also the Superintendent of Police, Dharwar, for having taken appropriate action by transferring the P.S.I. and directing a Magisterial and Departmental enquiry.

2.30 P.M.

MOTION TO ELECT MEMBERS

(i) *To the Committee on Public undertakings.*

MADAM SPEAKER :—Hon'ble Chief Minister to move the Motion for election.

SRI D. DEVARAJ URS (Chief Minister) :— Madam, I beg to move :

“ That this Assembly do proceed to elect Nine Members to the Committee on Public Undertakings in accordance with sub-rule 1 (a) of Rule 256-B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly.

MADAM SPEAKER :—Motion moved. The question is :

“ That this Assembly do proceed to elect Nine members to the Committee on Public Undertakings in accordance with sub-rule a (a) of Rule 256-B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly.”

The motion was adopted

(ii) *Re : Committee on Welfare of Scs./ S. Ts.*

SRI DEVARAJ URS :—Madam, I beg to move :

“ That this Assembly do proceed to elect Nine Members to the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in accordance